

CLAIMS

1. A label for use with a composite material comprising:
a carrier with printed ink indicia,
5 said ink indicia comprised of a first layer of a first ink and second layer of a second ink, and
wherein the carrier becomes one of translucent or transparent when coated with a resin material.
- 10 2. The label of claim 1, wherein the carrier is a mesh.
3. The label of claim 1, wherein the carrier is a porous woven mesh, having a thread count between 180 and 560 threads per inch.
- 15 4. The label of claim 1, wherein the label is embedded in the surface of the composite material using the resin material.
5. The label of claim 1, wherein the resin material is a heat curable resin.
- 20 6. The label of claim 4, wherein the carrier is a mesh, the resin impregnates the mesh and said label becomes integral with the composite material after the resin has cured.
7. The label of claim 4, wherein the carrier is a porous woven mesh having a thread count between 180 and 560 threads per inch.
- 25 8. The label of claim 1 wherein the first ink layer comprises a light-colored ink and said second ink layer comprises a dark-colored ink.
9. The label of claim 8 wherein composite is a light colored composite and the carrier
30 contacts the composite.
10. The label of claim 8 wherein the composite is a dark-colored composite and the dark-colored ink layer contacts the composite.

11. The label of claim 10 wherein said light-colored ink layer has sufficient opacity to obscure the dark-colored ink layer and the composite.
12. A thermal transfer ribbon comprising:
5 a ribbon carrier having a first side with printed ink indicia; said printed ink indicia comprises:
a first ink layer; and
a second ink layer between said ribbon carrier and said first ink layer.
- 10 13. A thermal transfer ribbon of claim 12 wherein the first ink layer is a dark colored ink and the second ink layer is a light colored ink.
14. A thermal transfer ribbon of claim 12 wherein the first colored ink layer is a light colored ink and the second colored ink layer is a dark colored ink.
- 15 15. The thermal transfer ribbon of claim 12 wherein one ink layer is a light colored ink layer and one ink layer is a dark colored ink layer the light colored ink layer has sufficient opacity to obscure the dark colored ink layer.
- 20 16. A method of labeling a composite material the steps of:
obtaining a porous mesh carrier;
printing ink indicia having a first ink layer and a second ink layer on the carrier; and
embedding the carrier into a composite material.
- 25 17. The method of claim 16 wherein the ink indicia is printed using a thermal transfer comprising first a ribbon carrier having a first side; a first colored ink layer and a second colored ink layer.
- 30 18. The method of claim 16 further comprising the steps of:
placing the printed carrier on the surface of a composite material;
coating the carrier with a resin;
allowing the resin to flow into the mesh; and
curing the resin;

wherein the data is printed using a thermal transfer ribbon having a first ribbon layer of a first ink and a second ribbon layer of a second ink such that the first and second ink layers are printed simultaneously.

5 19. The method of claim 15 further comprising the steps of placing the carrier such that the carrier contacts the composite.

20. The method of claim 15 further comprising the step of placing the carrier such that the second ink layer contacts the composite.

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